Dan

Attached is the discussion outline of Fred Ikle's meeting on the "Hanoi Red Team" project. I was asked to pass this along to you with comments on the meeting. On the latter, No comment. Oleg or Bill Jones might have something to add —.

Al Wellstone

Dan

RAND ASSISTANCE IN THE PREPARATION OF A "RED TEAM" PROJECT ON VIETNAM WAR TERMINATION

- It is proposed that Rand help in setting up a "Red Team" project on Vietnam war termination; that is, an effort that would seek to anticipate likely enemy responses to U.S. policy and strategy, especially for the long term.

- The U.S. intelligence community, of course, maintains a large effort on North Vietnamese intentions and capabilities. The "Red Team" project ought to take advantage of this effort. It could be designed so that sensitive data are kept segregated, to be inserted at a final stage by persons with a strict need to know.

- The objective of the "Red Team" project would be to develop a coherent evaluation of likely enemy policies with which U.S. policy and policy options can be systematically confronted.

- The project might include the following:

  (1) An estimate of Hanoi's view of U.S. policy options, U.S. government intent, and long-term capabilities.

  (2) An estimate of the views of the Hanoi government leaders of their own long-term capabilities (feedback from their troops and VC, assessment of their strength in Laos, of continued Soviet supplies, etc.).

  (3) An estimate of Hanoi's contingency planning for possible U.S. escalations, and NV government attitude toward escalation risk.

  (4) An estimate of Hanoi's evaluation of GVN and ability to influence GVN and RVNAF officials.

  (5) Arrangements for politico-military gaming to be carried out within USG. The gaming results could then be used to guide further work on the key uncertainties of Hanoi's responses to U.S. policy options, and on possible incompatibilities between U.S. policies and North Vietnamese intent/capabilities.

FCI
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